



Washington's Child Passenger Safety Pipeline

January 31, 2004

2003 Year
End Totals
You are
awesome!!

Seats Checked

15,004

Participants

40,024

CRS Replaced

2,704

Volunteer
Hours

2,329

News Flash News Flash News Flash News Flash

This just in! Following a review of research on car seat performance, NHTSA has revised its advice to parents and caregivers. They are now allowing reuse of car seats after a minor crash.

A minor crash is one in which ALL of the following apply:

- A visual inspection of the seat (including under easily movable seat padding) does not reveal any cracks or deformation that might have been caused by a crash
- the vehicle (that the car seat was installed in) was capable of being driven from the scene of the crash
- the vehicle door nearest the car seat was undamaged
- there were no injuries to any of the vehicle occupants
- the airbags (if any) did not deploy

NHTSA says crashes that meet all of these criteria are much less severe than the dynamic testing requirement for compliance with FMVSS 213 and are highly unlikely to affect future seat performance. Therefore, caregivers can be confident the child restraints involved in these minor crashes will continue to provide a high level of protection.

This policy change was made to ensure that parents or caregivers continue to correctly restrain their children following a minor crash. It will also reduce the financial burden of unnecessary car seat replacement.

NHTSA still recommends that parents and caregivers check with the car seat manufacturer in regard to performance, operation and installation. However, NHTSA also recognizes that minor crashes are unlikely to affect car seat performance.

This was adapted from a DOT News and AP News release.

Wow.....what does this mean for us as advocates? Hard to tell right now. There are already questions about what the manufacturers might possibly do. Will they change their instructions? What do they think about this? We do not know, but we will be sure to keep you posted on any information about this as it comes to us.

Quote for the day

**"Those who bring
sunshine into the
lives of others
cannot keep it
from themselves."**

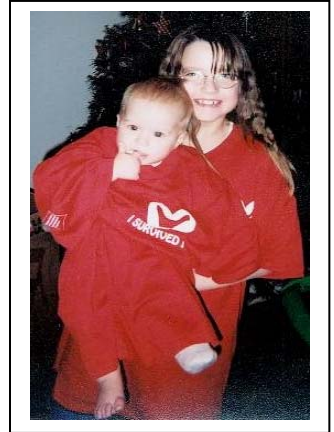
Author: James
Matthew Barrie

Car Seats and Seat Belts - THEY DO WORK

On Nov. 25, my family and I were heading from Mount Vernon to Colorado for the holidays when we got into a vehicle crash. We were traveling in our 2000 Dodge Dakota along I-84 at about 10:30 p.m. near Baker City, Oregon, when we hit a patch of ice. I tried but couldn't correct. We spun around a couple of times and then hit the side of the highway. We pitched, and then rolled, we figure, four times, and landed on the roof. Despite the rolling and the damage to our vehicle, we emerged unscathed. There we were - my wife, my 10-year-old daughter and me hanging upside down from our seatbelts, and my nine-month-old daughter suspended from her car seat.

I firmly believe had it not been for our seat belts and the car seat, we either would have been seriously injured, or worse, would have been killed. While we never had objections to wearing seat belts before, the crash reinforced in our minds that it is absolutely necessary that people do wear them. When used and when needed, they do save lives.

This seat belt survivor story is from Bill Craig of Skagit County EMS and the Skagit County Child Passenger Safety Team. Thank you Bill for sharing your experience with us and we are so glad to know that everyone is okay!



Did you know that according to the latest Washington State survey, our booster seat usage numbers for kids over 6 years old has gone down. Could it be that we are giving the wrong message? Answer this question in your head before reading on. According to Washington State law, when can by child get out of a booster seat?

If the child is less than six but at least four years of age or weighs less than sixty pounds but at least forty pounds, the child shall be properly restrained in a child booster seat; Then the next portion is this:

Children six years old or weighing more than 60 pounds shall be restrained in either a booster seat or properly adjusted and fastened seat belt. What does that mean to you? This is how we talk about the law out of our office. If the seat belt still does not properly fit the child (examples: the shoulder belt crosses the face or neck; shoulder belt is under the arm; shoulder belt is behind the back; or the lap belt is up on the tummy), the driver can still be given a ticket. Refer them to the 5-Step Test.



Contact us

Safety Restraint Coalition

917 Kirkland Avenue
Kirkland, WA 98033

Phone:
(425) 828-8975

Toll free within
Washington State:
1-800-BUCKL UP
1-800-282-5587

Fax:
(425) 828-9083

We're on the Web!
www.800buckleup.org

E-mail:
Kathy Kruger
Executive Director
kathyk@800buckleup.org

Jennifer Pavey
Administrative Assistant
jenniferp@800buckleup.org
Special Needs

Kristen Thorstenson Team
Resource Coordinator
kristent@800buckleup.org,
School Buses

Angie Beaulac Accounting
abeaulac@aol.com

Upcoming Events

NCPSA (National Child Passenger Safety Awareness) Week, February 8-14th.

LIFESAVERS - National Conference on Highway Safety Priorities, March 28-30, 2004, Town & Country Resort and Conference Center San Diego, California. Visit their website at www.lifesaversconference.org.

3-FLAGS meeting, April 6 & 7, SeaTac, WA.

Contact Angie Ward (360) 753-0877 or Michelle Nicholls (360) 586-3864

SAFE KIDS Update/Refresher Courses, Coming mid April, to Spokane, Benton/Franklin, Cowlitz and Snohomish Counties. The Safety Restraint Coalition is partnering with local Child Passenger Safety Teams to offer this to you. We will be coming Contact the Safety Restraint Coalition for more info.

Certification Classes-

March 4,5,11 & 12, AAA Corporate Headquarters in Bellevue King County, Contact Safety Restraint Coalition at (800)282-5587, (425) 828-8975 or office@800buckleup.org.

May 4-7, Mason County, Contact Safety Restraint Coalition at (800)282-5587 or (425)828-8975 and office@800buckleup.org.

Let us know when you have events planned!!

Ongoing Events

In an effort to inform each other of events occurring in other areas, there will be listing of ongoing events. If I have missed a site and/or person that offers regular events, please contact me at Kristent@800buckleup.org.

Clark County

- Doris Girt, Vancouver Police 360-696-8585
- Judy Stewart, Vancouver Police 360-735-8869
- Marion Swendsen, Vancouver Police 360-735-8770
- Joe Scheer, Washougal Fire 360-835-2211
- Terry Grendahl, 360-896-5379

The third Saturday of each month Clark County offers a CAR SEAT SAFETY **CLASS** 9-10 AM and a CAR SEAT SAFETY **CLINIC** 10-1 PM at Southwest Washington Medical Center 400 NE Mother Joseph Place, Vancouver.

1-8-777-TU VIDA is Washington's new toll free telephone line for Spanish speaking families. Do you know someone in the Seattle area who speaks Spanish? We still need help in answering and responding to calls from this line.

Remember, SAFE KIDS is now the certifying body for NHTSA's National Standardized Child Passenger Safety Certification Program. If you have questions about recertification send an email to cps.certification@safekids.org or call 1 800-877-366-8154.

Tickler:

What is :

A device incorporated with some lower anchorages to help the user position and guide the lower attachment connector during CR installation?



Answer to the tickler:

Funnel guide

Find more technical information like this at Safety Belt Safe's website

www.carseat.org
click on Technical Encyclopedia

New Products

Dorel Juvenile Group (www.djgusa.com)

Protek is a belt positioning booster seat. It can be used with or without its high seat back. The seat back has seven adjustable positions. It is designed for use by children who weigh between 30-100 pounds.

Combi International Corporation (www.combi-intl.com) has three new car seats available.

Tyro is an infant seat. It has EPS impact foam. The upper weight limit is 22 pounds. It has a 5-point harness with a 2-piece chest clip, a level indicator, one-pull harness adjustment and a multi position adjustable base. It also has a built-in lock off clip. Suggested Retail Price: \$159.99

Avatar is a convertible seat (*pictured right*). Rear-facing 0-30 lbs. (directions say to consult a physician for infants under 5 lbs.) Forward-facing from 20-40lbs. It has energy absorbent polyurethane foam and side impact panels. Forward and rear facing tether and built-in, rotating lock off clip. It has a 5-point harness with 2-piece chest clip, one pull front harness adjustment. Suggested Retail Price \$209.99



Apogee booster seat. accommodates children 33-100 pounds and 33 and 57 inches. Use with vehicle's lap and shoulder belts. Converts from high back to no back. Energy absorbent polyurethane foam. Contoured multi-position, adjustable head rest to grow with the child. Suggested Retail Price \$109.99.

In other News: the Dorel Juvenile Group has ceased production of the Grand Explorer small shield booster as of the end of last year. There are therefore no more shield boosters being manufactured in the U.S.

It's here! The CPS 800buckleup.org extranet website is here. We have been working diligently to get this up and running and are very excited to offer it to you. There will be tons and tons of information awaiting you. Certified Technicians or Instructors, Child Passenger Safety Teams, Traffic Safety Task Forces, SAFE KIDS Coalitions and other Advocates will receive a "secret squirrel" password used to access this secured portion of the website. This is not for the General Public. But is our gift to you. We appreciate the work that you do in Child Passenger Safety!

We would love to hear from you! Send us news about your Team and events, your questions and comments too. Kristen at 1-800-BUCK L UP (1-800-282-5587), kristent@800buckleup.org or 917 Kirkland Ave., Kirkland, WA 98033.